

MAY 93

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: VINCENT FERRARA

PRESENT POSITION RETIRED

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: JULY 13, 1927 CLEVELAND OHIO

ART TEACHER

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: OIL

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF ART (DIPLOMA)

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
BS. AND M.A.

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

1972 ONE-MAN SHOW STAIRCASE GALLERY, HUDSON

1987 ONE-MAN SHOW OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, MACEDONIA

A COUPLE OF BUTLER INSTITUTE OF ART SHOWS YOUNG STOWN -

THREE ONE MAN SHOWS COOPER SCHOOL OF ART - CLEVELAND - DATE ???

ONE MAN SHOW CIRCLE GALLERY, CLEVELAND DATE ???

SEVERAL MAY SHOWS "LAST 2 AND THIS ONE" DATE ??? (I DON'T KEEP RECORDS)

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK: ? AND OTHERS - DATES ???

A FEW FAMILIES - - - UNIMPORTANT TO MENTION

AWARDS: NOTHING IMPORTANT

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

MY WORK IS A RESULT OF YEARS OF STUDY OF ART, ART HISTORY, AESTHETICS, ANATOMY, DESIGN, PERSPECTIVE, NATURE AND THE COMMON GROUND THAT ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL HAVE.

I BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN ARE SEEN IN ALL ART FORMS AND IN A BEAUTIFUL LIFE.. THAT PRINCIPLES OF ART ARE SYNTHESIZED WITH LIFE AND THE SOUL.

I FURTHER BELIEVE THAT WE WERE PLACED

ON EARTH TO LEARN AS MUCH AS WE CAN.
I BELIEVE ALL ARTISTS SHOULD BE ART HISTORIANS,
"SCIENTISTS" WHO STUDY MAN AND NATURE AND
SHOULD NOT PURSUE ART IF THEY WILL PRACTICE
DILETTANTISM.

IN MY "THREE AGES OF MAN" I WAS REFLECTING
THE PASSAGE OF TIME. MY WIFE HELEN STANDS NEXT
TO ME. A FORTUNE TELLER IN A BOOTH IS BEHIND ME
HOLDING TWO "JOKER" CARDS. MY WIFE DIED A YEAR AGO.
I WAS TRYING TO SHOW LIFE WITH ITS JOY AND
SADNESS. ^{NG}... A PLAY OF CONTRASTS...
I PAINT DIRECTLY FROM LIVING MODEL AND, RARELY, FROM
DRAWINGS FROM LIFE

Vincent
Ferrara

OF CANCER

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: VINCENT FERRARA

PRESENT POSITION

RETIRED ART
TEACHER

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: JULY 13, 1927, CLEVELAND
OHIO

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: OIL PAINTING

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF ART DIPLOMA

B.S. AND M.A. WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY (ART HISTORY
ART EDUCATION)
AND YEARS (A LIFE-TIME) OF INDEPENDENT STUDY

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

I DON'T RECALL "YEARS". A CLEVELAND MAY SHOW ONCE
IN AWHILE .. 2 BUTLER SHOWS. AN OHIO SHOW AT CANTON ART
INSTITUTE, SEVERAL ONE-MAN SHOWS IN GALLERIES, AN OUR
LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH ONE MAN SHOW IN 1978 ... A MAY SHOW
LAST YEAR '89 ...

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

NOTHING SIGNIFICANT

AWARDS:

NONE

PAINTING: AMERICAN TRAGEDY

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

ALL FIGURES PAINTED FROM LIVING MODELS IN
STUDIO.. THE NEIGHBOR'S OLD SHOPPING CART WAS THE
"CATALYST". THE FIGURES REPRESENT "STREET PEOPLE":
THE WOMAN PUSHING HER BELONGINGS IN A CART,
THE OLD MAN WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED,
THE TWO MEN IN VIOLENT CONFRONTATION OVER A
BAG OF COCAINE AND THE ONE PERSON WHO SEES
THE VIOLENCE.

I HAVE STUDIED NATURE AND ART HISTORY

ALL OF MY ADULT LIFE, I HAVE AN EXCELLENT LIBRARY, WHICH I USE ALMOST DAILY.

LIKE PICASSO WHO HAD MANY INFLUENCES, I TOO HAVE MINE... PRIMARILY THE 16th AND 17th CENTURIES FOR MY FIGURE DRAWING... BUT FOR DESIGN IDEAS I HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY ALL MOVEMENTS INCLUDING CUBISM.

I DELIGHT IN INJECTING SUBTLE DESIGNS (ABSTRACT--CUBISTIC-- OR NON-OBJECTIVE) IN LARGE AREAS AS WELL AS SMALL... I ENJOYED MYSELF WHEN I PAINTED THE BRICK WALL AND THE BROKEN GLASS -- INCLUDING SHAPES, "DESIGNS" etc... THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH PHYSICAL REALITY BUT MUCH TO DO WITH EMOTIONAL AND SYMBOLIC REALITY.

Vincent Fenara

P.S. OF COURSE, THE MOTIVATING FACTOR IN "AMERICAN TRAGEDY" IS AMERICA'S PROBLEMS; DRUGS, CRIME, AND POVERTY. THERE IS A CONCERN FOR THE HOMELESS AND THE PROBLEMS OF THE ELDERLY.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 89

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: VINCENT FERRARA

PRESENT POSITION RETIRED ART TEACHER

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: JULY, 13, 1927 CLEVELAND OHIO

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: OIL ON CANVAS

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF ART diploma, B.S., M.A.
WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
AND A LIFETIME OF STUDY INDEPENDENT OF SCHOOLS

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

Butler Institute of Art 1974 Nudgear Show. Kent Religious Art Show ?
About seven "May Shows" - years ??? 1981 or 1982 ?
One Man Shows ! ONE-MAN SHOWS !
Copper School of Art (2013) Staircase Gallery - Hudson - 1972
Crile Gallery of Art - years ?? Our Lady of Guadalupe
church - Macedonia 1987

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

I have never kept a record - Not many at all... Most of my work is here at home. I don't show my work too often! I paint them and stack them away.

AWARDS:

As I said, I am not aggressive in showing my work or trying for awards. The only award I can remember was ~~the~~ sharing first place at a Kent Religious Art Show.

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

When I Taught at Cleveland Heights High, my students posed for me after classes. A large mirror placed behind me enabled them to watch and learn. All of my figures are painted directly from life. The technique is my personal interpretation of 16th and 17th century under-painting, overpainting and glazing. In my recent retirement years, I have had to resort to painting my mirrored image, varying my appearance

to fit the character portrayed.

I was eating a bagel for lunch when ~~the~~ part of the idea for Alley Scene U.S.A. came to me. I carried the partially eaten bagel to my studio, looked in the mirror and began the painting. I never use a sketch or plan and never know what the end result will be.

My wife was appalled when she found the dirty garbage can in my studio. In this painting I show three concerns: drugs, the poor and homeless, and the bigot hoodlum. All of the figures are my mirrored image. The battered maniken head hangs in my studio. I repeated that symbol to express pain and violence.

The theme of my last one-man show was "Social Concerns - Religious Art". These were some of the titles: Three Mile Island, Holocaust, M.I.A.s, Viet Nam, Captives, No Nukes, and a few ecology themes. The life of Jesus was shown in other paintings.

Since I was eight years old I have studied my one great love, Art. I have studied, read, struggled almost every day of my life. I don't believe an artist is educated, ~~and~~ unless he learns from all of the great masters of the past. I have learned from art history and from the study of nature. Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Titian, Caravaggio, Velasquez and others have all been "my teachers". I have taught myself anatomy, perspective and discovered design principles with ~~each~~ each new year of painting, searching, and reading. I believe the artist should be personal and unique, learn from the past but be an individual true to his convictions.

Vincent Ferrara

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on Cleveland Artists.

FULL NAME: *Vincent Ferrara*

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: *July 13, 1927 Cleveland Ohio*

PRIMARY MEDIA *OIL PAINTING*

ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc.:

*Cleveland Institute of Art, Western Reserve University
Art school diploma, B.S., M.A.*

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN:

*Circle Gallery artist (now closed) Staircase Gallery, Hudson.
(one-man shows) Kent State University, many May Shows,
Butler Institute of Art shows. (annual American) = last date
1974. Cooper School of Art Faculty Shows and 3 one-man
shows (I have not been on that staff for over 12 years.)*

COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

*many private collections - many names I have not
recorded. Richard Mann
Hart Family - Beechwood
Curt and Lillian Jenny*

AWARDS:

PRESENT POSITION:

TEACHER, Cleveland Heights High

We would appreciate any information regarding subsequent awards, purchases, exhibitions and scholarships.
Thank you for your cooperation.

April 13, 1975

additional information about MAY SHOW
ARTISTS

Dear Sir:

I forgot to mention the fact that
in 1974 my oils were exhibited in
the Canton Institute of Art "Ohio Artists"
annual competition, in addition to the
national exhibit at the Butler Institute
of American Art in Youngstown.

Please add this to the form that I
have already mailed to you ...

Thank you

Vincent Ferrara

VINCENT FERRARA

Mr. Ferrarar~~y~~ was born in 1927. He received a diploma from the Cleveland Institute of Art, a B.S. and M.A. from Western Reserve University. He is the Art Department Chairman at Cleveland Heights High School. His work has appeared in May Show, the Butler Institute Shows, Cooper Art School Faculty Shows, Circle Gallery- one man show, 1964, Kent State University. His work is included in many local collections.

MAY 67 REC'D

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear

Vincent Ferrara

We are trying to build a biographical record of Cleveland Artists for reference. May we enlist your assistance with the following data?

FULL NAME: VINCENT FERRARA

MEDIA: OIL

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: JULY 13 1927

ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc:

CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF ART DIPLOMA
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AND MASTERS OF ARTS DEGREE
WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN:

MAY SHOWS

BUTLER SHOW

Coopers Art School faculty Show

One-man show - Arile Gallery 1964

One-man show - Coopers Art School 1967

Kent State - 3 man Show in June 17 to July 18 '67 -

COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

Many families - but not part of any
impressive collections.

AWARDS:

PRESENT POSITION: ^{ART} DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL
(TEACHER)

We would greatly appreciate it if you would inform us of subsequent awards, purchases, exhibitions and scholarships. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ann J. Surie

Assistant Curator of Paintings

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
QUESTIONNAIRE

May 29, 1957

Dear Mr. Ferrara:

We are trying to build a biographical record of Cleveland Artists for reference. May we enlist your assistance with the following data?

FULL NAME: *Vincent Ferrara*

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: *July 13, 1927 Cleveland*

ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc.:

Cleveland Institute of Art - Diploma

Western Reserve University - Bachelor of Science Degree and

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN:

*Masters of Arts Degree
in Art History.*

*Various May Shows (I can not
remember the years.) Cleveland Art teachers exhibits
Jay Show Exhibit 1956*

COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

AWARDS:

Jay Show 1956 2nd prize oil Landscape Division

PRESENT POSITION:

*Art teacher at Monticello Junior High
in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.*

We would greatly appreciate it if you would inform us of subsequent awards, purchases, exhibitions and scholarships. Thank you for your cooperation.

Thank you for your interest -

Ann. Tzeutschler
Assistant in Paintings

Please excuse the delay in returning this form.

Vincent Ferrara